EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EV 386481044 US Customer No. 24498

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

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Ralf Ostermann; Hartmut Peters

Filed

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Herewith

For

METHOD FOR RUN-LENGTH ENCODING OF A

BITMAP DATA STREAM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents MAIL STOP PCT P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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Sir:

13.

In the US national phase application of PCT/EP04/004794 filed herewith, please file the following amendments and enter remarks as follows:

Listing and Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.